

work every day to keep us safe, and we are further strengthened by residents like William Ramirez, who sometimes add heroic action to their everyday routines because it is simply the right thing to do.

How could we not?

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of the ambitious investment in water infrastructure in every community across our great Nation.

I recently wrapped up a tour of several water systems in upstate New York, and what I saw was infrastructure in urgent need of attention—broken pipes, flooded communities, and a lack of technical support for our municipalities. I have spoken with colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in the House, and I have heard similar problems.

We as a Nation must always keep an eye on our debt and on our deficits, both current and those years down the road. To that end, we must realize that investment is needed now to save dollars in the decades to come. We live in a world in which we upgrade our phones, our TVs, our cars, and other personal items almost every 2 years. It is time to apply that same mentality to the delivery systems that move around our most precious commodity—water.

To my colleagues who haven't already done so, I urge them to get involved in this issue within their own communities because it is not just H2O flooding out of those broken pipes just under our feet; it is water plus taxpayer dollars—hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

STOPPING TSA ABUSES ACT

(Mr. ROONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, we saw disturbing news of two TSA screeners who allegedly conspired to sexually assault passengers. This was not the first we have heard about screeners exceeding their authority to abuse passengers. We have read about the pat-downs and strip searches of young children, senior citizens, and cancer patients. Instead of reining in screeners, TSA has unilaterally given them the appearance of even greater authority—metal badges, blue uniforms, and the title of “officer.”

When you dress someone up like a policeman and call him “officer,” you are misleading passengers about his actual authority. Most people see a badge and a uniform, and they comply with the screener's demands even when those demands are abusive. That has to end.

I have introduced the Stopping TSA Abuses Act to prohibit the TSA from giving screeners metal badges, police-like uniforms, and the title “officer.” It reserves those rights for sworn officers who have actually completed law enforcement training.

When you see someone wearing a Federal badge and uniform, you should have the faith that he actually has received the proper training. This bill is an important step towards that goal.

MAYOR PRADEL

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor A. George Pradel of the city of Naperville, Illinois.

A lifelong Naperville resident, Mayor Pradel has spent his life in service to the community that he loves.

George was born and raised in Naperville, and after a 3-year detour in the Marine Corps, he returned home to become a police officer. Known around town as “Officer Friendly,” he served on the force for 30 years. One of his proudest achievements during his time as an officer was the dedication of Safety Town, a miniature town that teaches children about public safety and how to avoid danger.

In 1995, he was first elected and has served as mayor for a record-setting 20 years, during a time of great expansion and growth for the city. The mayor has led Naperville with his signature mix of charm and compassion. His annual tradition of delivering the State of the City Address in a tuxedo and silk top-hat will certainly be missed.

Mayor Pradel is also a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Pat, and is a dedicated father to his children and foster children.

Mayor Pradel, as you step down and spend time with your family, know that your dedication to the community and know that your energy and enthusiasm for serving Naperville will never be forgotten.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAN JACINTO DAY

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, today is a very special day for us Texans. Today, we celebrate San Jacinto Day, which marks the day Texas won its independence at the Battle of San Jacinto.

On this very day in 1836, General Sam Houston's army decisively defeated Mexican President Santa Anna and his forces at the Battle of San Jacinto while famously shouting, “Remember the Alamo. Remember the Goliad.”

In the U.S. Congress, I am honored and proud to represent this historic battlefield, which now lays home to the San Jacinto Monument. This monument is a staggering and stunning

piece of architecture that proudly pays tribute to Texas' victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. Since its completion in 1939, the San Jacinto Monument has served as a symbol of pride, sacrifice, and honor to not only Texas but also to our local community.

As we celebrate 179 years of freedom, let us remember the brave Texas heroes who conquered the Mexican forces at the Battle of San Jacinto on this day.

May we also remember the significant sacrifices made by so many during the Texas Revolution to achieve the freedoms and liberties that we proudly enjoy today in the Lone Star State.

COMFORT WOMEN

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as the United States continues to work with Japan to promote peace and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region and the broader global community, it is my hope that Prime Minister Abe's visit next week will lay the foundation for healing and humble reconciliation by addressing the historical issue of the comfort women.

I look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister for Japan is a close friend and ally, as is South Korea. We want to encourage our close friends and allies to communicate and to foster an ability to work together productively.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor resolutions in the United States Congress to urge the Japanese Government to formally acknowledge and apologize for their Imperial Military's coercion of young women into sexual slavery during the thirties and forties. The recognition of these events by the Japanese Government, through the report released last year on the Kono Statement, takes a step backward in taking full responsibility for the immeasurable pain and incurable wounds suffered by the comfort women.

As a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I will continue to work every day to ensure that our children and our children's children will inherit a world where these types of atrocities are a thing of the past.

Mr. Speaker, MIKE HONDA, who will be speaking in a little while, has kept this hope alive.

CONSTITUENT CASES AT THE PHILADELPHIA VA

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a Veterans' Affairs Committee member, tomorrow we will have a hearing on the abuses at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office. We are going to hear a lot about